

***KODIAK/ALEUTIANS SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL***

Seat 1 (term expires 2007)

**Pete Squartsoff, Port Lions**

Seat 2 (term expires 2007)

**Patrick Holmes, Kodiak**

Seat 3 (term expires 2007)

**Richard Zacharof, St. Paul**

Seat 4 (term expires 2007)

**Samuel Rohrer, Kodiak**

Seat 5 (term expires 2008)

**Alfred B. Cratty, Jr., Old Harbor**

Seat 6 (term expires 2008)

**Jim Hamilton, Kodiak**

Seat 7 (term expires 2008)

**Vincent M. Tutiakoff, Adak**

Seat 8 (term expires 2006)

**Paul Gundersen, Nelson Lagoon**

Seat 9 (term expires 2006)

**Speridon Simeonoff, Sr., Akhiok**

Seat 10 (term expires 2006)

**Richard Koso, Adak**

**KODIAK/ALEUTIANS  
SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**March 21 & 22, 2006  
City Chambers, Sand Point, Alaska**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Vincent Tutiakoff, Adak  
Pete Squartsoff, Port Lions  
Al Cratty, Old Harbor  
Sam Rohrer, Kodiak  
Pat Holmes, Kodiak  
Paul Gundersen, Nelson Lagoon  
Jim Hamilton, Kodiak

**Excused:**

Speridon Simeonoff, Akhiok  
Richard Koso, Adak

**Unexcused Absence:**

Richard Zacharof, St. Paul

**Federal/State Agencies Present:**

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management:**

Michelle Chivers, Steve Fried, Laura Greffenius

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Izembek National Wildlife Refuge:** Sandra Siekaniec

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game:** Lem Butler, Rob Baer

**Court Reporter:** Nathan Hile

**Public present:** Jennifer Thompson and Amy McGlodgie (Washington D.C.), Stanley Mack

**Call to Order**

Chair Tutiakoff called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. at the City Chambers Office in Sand Point.

**Roll Call/Confirmation of Quorum**

Pete Squartsoff, Secretary, called roll. Quorum was established.

**Election of Officers**

**Chair:** Paul Gundersen nominated Vince Tutiakoff. Pat Holmes nominated Speridon Simeonoff. Pete Squartsoff moved that nominations for Chair be closed; motion was seconded by Al Cratty. Ballots were counted for both nominees; there were a total of five votes for Vince and two votes for Speridon. Vince Tutiakoff remains Chair for another year.

**Vice Chair:** Paul Gundersen nominated Pete Squartsoff. Pete Squartsoff declined and nominated Mitch Simeonoff. Mitch Simeonoff remains Vice Chair for another year.

**Secretary:** Pat Holmes nominated Pete Squartsoff. Hearing to other nominations for Secretary, Pete Squartsoff remains Secretary for another year.

**Chair – Vince Tutiakoff**

**Vice Chair – Mitch Simeonoff**

**Secretary – Pete Squartsoff**

**Review and Adoption of Agenda**

After a few additions, Pete Squartsoff made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion seconded by Pat Holmes. Motion passed unanimously.

Pat Holmes made a motion to adopt the minutes of September 22, 2005. Motion seconded by Sam Rohrer. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Review of New Council Charter**

Ms. Chivers gave the Council an update on the changes that were made to the new charter which was signed on October 25, 2005. One change was that membership of the Council would be as follows: with four council members residing on Kodiak Island and three members residing on the Alaska Peninsula the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands, and three members would be commercial/sport representatives. The other change to the charter was removal of members: if a member has two consecutive unexcused absences of regularly scheduled meetings, the Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board may recommend that the Secretary of the Interior with concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture remove that individual. A member may also be removed due to misconduct.

After a lengthy discussion, the Council asked that a letter be written to the Secretary of the Interior requesting that administrative authority be given to the Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board for appointments.

Pete Squartsoff made a motion to adopt the Charter. Motion was seconded by Paul Gundersen. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Chair's Report**

Chair, Vince Tutiakoff was unable to attend the meeting. Michelle Chivers gave the council a few moments to read the letter to the Council which described the actions taken by the Federal Subsistence Board at it's meeting in May.

### **Letter regarding Standing Committee**

Chair Tutiakoff read the February 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to the Council from the Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board. He asked how this letter came about.

Pat Holmes stated that three members from the Council got together with a couple of people from the State fish & game advisory committee and from the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge to come up with a recommendation for a goat hunt. This committee worked real well, so Mr. Holmes thought the Council should have a standing committee to take care of issues as they arise, so he put together a letter requesting a standing subcommittee. Mr. Cratty and Mr. Squartsoff both agreed that the subcommittee worked well in getting a recommendation put together for the Council to consider.

Chair Tutiakoff stated that the Council would put this aside for now, but take it up again when an issue arises.

### **WILDLIFE PROPOSAL REVIEW AND REGIONAL COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION**

**Statewide Proposal WP06-01:** (Laura Greffenius) This proposal addresses the commercial sales of handicrafts made from bear claws. Last year the Federal Subsistence Board adopted the definition of handicrafts, the definition of skin, hide, pelt, and fur, with language that clarified that claws can be used in handicrafts for sale. However, the Board deferred the part of the proposal that addressed commercial sales to allow all ten councils time to review the Federal Subsistence Board's modified language. This proposal would remove commercial incentives for harvesting bears, thereby providing additional protection from possible overharvest of bear populations. The staff recommendation is to support the proposal after removing the proposed exemption for Southeast Alaska. Subsistence users in Southeast should be able to carry out their customary and traditional making and selling of bear claw handicrafts without selling to businesses or becoming a significant commercial enterprise.

and where they are going. Ms. Greffenius stated that that is a good question. That is one element that has been brought up as a concern with this particular proposal.

Pat Holmes asked how this relates to CITES treaties and other international treaties. He gave an example of some Koreans down in the Prince William Sound who were slaughtering bears and taking all the parts, including claws, bladders, teeth, and buying it in a black market arena. Ms. Greffenius stated that there again, that is a law enforcement issue.

Lem Butler, ADF&G, read the Departments comments into the record. The Department does not support this proposal and recommends that it not be adopted.

Two written comments were read into the record.

No public testimony.

Pat Holmes stated that he would vote against this proposal because of potential impacts to local communities involved in outfitting and guiding. And some folks are hurting for other income, this reflects on their use of subsistence items too.

Sam Rohrer asked if the Council could amend the proposal. Chair Tutiakoff said yes that can be done. Pete Squartsoff made a motion to amend the proposal to eliminate the sale of handicrafts made from claws or black or brown bears so they cannot be sold at all. And also strike paragraphs 8A and 8B regarding an entity operating as a business to make it against the law to sell bear claws regardless. Motion was seconded by Pat Holmes. Roll call vote was as follows: Squartsoff – yes; Holmes – yes; Rohrer – yes; Cratty – yes; Hamilton – yes; Tutiakoff – yes; Gundersen – no. There was some confusion about a main motion – but the Council made this amendment and voted 6 to 1 in favor of this motion.

**Statewide Proposal WP06-02** (Laura Greffenius). This proposal requests the Federal Subsistence Board authorize the sale of handicrafts made from nonedible byproducts of wildlife other than bears, harvested for subsistence uses. The intent of this proposal is to have Federal regulations align more closely with existing State regulations with respect to handicrafts, and to accommodate existing practices. This action will not alter existing harvest limits or seasons, therefore, it should have no impact on wildlife populations. This proposal would provide Federally qualified subsistence hunters the same opportunities that are currently available to those harvesting under State regulations. This proposal also prohibits sales from constituting a significant commercial enterprise. Definitions of big game and trophy are also defined in this proposal. The staff recommendation is to support the proposal as amended.

Lem Butler, ADF&G, stated that the Department also supports this proposal.

Written comments were read into the record.

Pat Holmes made a motion to support the proposal. Motion was seconded by Jim Hamilton. Motion passed unanimously.

**Proposal WP06-19/20** (Laura Greffenius). Proposals 19 and 20 were combined since they both were addressing caribou in Unit 9D. Proposal 19 was submitted by the Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council would eliminate the cow hunt and decrease the harvest from two caribou to one bull in Unit 9D. Proposal 20 was submitted by ADF&G requesting elimination of the cow hunt as well while maintaining a harvest limit of two animals. Both proposals address conservation concerns about the declining population of the Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd in Unit 9D. The staff recommendation is to support Proposal 19 with modification to amend the harvest limits and eliminate the proposed closure of

Federal public lands. The staff recommendation for Proposal 20 would be to take no action given the action recommended for Proposal 19.

Sam Rohrer asked why it appeared that the numbers have doubled and dropped so much in the varying years. It appears the herd doubled in size and then was cut in half and then doubled in size again. Ms. Greffenius did not have an exact answer, but overall there have been issues with nutrition and disease, those are just some of the factors.

Jim Hamilton asked if someone could address how the surveys were conducted. Sandra Siekaniec, Izembek Refuge Manager, stated that the counts were done by aerial surveys. There are transect lines that they usually fly. They try to cover them all, however, they focus mostly on winter surveys because the caribou have moved to higher elevations and they are easier to count when there is snow on the ground. She stated that weather is a factor in how much of the area they can cover each year.

Pat Holmes stated that the declining calf numbers were more alarming than the population size. He asked if this was also reflective of other parts of the State, particularly Bristol Bay. All the herds are showing signs of declining productivity; the females are just not pregnant at the levels expected during population increases. With evidence of decreased productivity, pregnancy rates, decreased calf weights, this certainly suggests that there is nutritional stress involved, and nutritional stress may be associated with habitat limitations in terms of carrying capacity. They are conducting a study to determine if disease is a contributing factor. He also stated that in terms of counts, you can never accurately count every single caribou, what is presented is a minimum population estimate of the population size as a whole. There will be an annual variation with surveys. Population increasing or decreasing is much more important than the population size.

Pete Squartsoff stated that he was concerned about the subsistence users, so he made a motion to support Proposal 19 with modification to two bulls by Federal registration permit, and Federal public lands are closed to hunting of caribou except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations. Motion was seconded by Paul Gundersen.

Al Cratty asked Mr. Butler if the State has a registration hunt or a drawing hunt? Mr. Butler stated that currently it is a general harvest ticket which means anyone can go out and hunt. Pete Squartsoff asked if the State would consider a drawing hunt. Mr. Butler said that maybe the Council could consider submitting a proposal to the Alaska Board of Game.

Sam Rohrer felt that the proposed amendment was being too hasty in closing Federal public lands to all users except subsistence users. He thought that the numbers would allow for everyone to take one bull. Give it one year, and if the numbers keep declining, then close Federal public lands to all hunters except subsistence users.

Ms. Sandra Siekaniec added that she did get out to some communities to talk to people there. In Nelson Lagoon, the people there were concerned about the guides. One guide who hunted there took about 30 caribou. Ms. Siekaniec was concerned that if Federal public lands were closed to non-Federally qualified subsistence users, then Nelson Lagoon would be most impacted by this since they are surrounded by State lands. People suggested that the State should restrict the number of guides and hunters in the unit by having tag permits. There were some concerns in Cold Bay, because it is easiest to get caribou when they go into Cold Bay because there is a road system. There was also concern about the antlerless hunt because some cows were taken in the later season during this hunt. There was also some concern about disease, because there were some white cysts found in the heart of some caribou that had been harvested. She said for the most part that most people were concerned about maintaining their subsistence rights.

No written public comments.

**Public Testimony – Stanley Mack**

Mr. Mack has always had a problem with all the hunting. Every time he goes out hunting he brings everything back and it all goes in his freezer for food. For many, many years he's watched hunters leaving with antlers only – no meat. In the past few years, just recently, he has seen hunters taking out a little bit of meat, but up until that time he had not seen any meat coming out. So he felt that it would be helpful to monitor this much closer and to set up some regulations that might help the animal populations.

Back to Council deliberation:

Jim Hamilton said that in hearing all the discussion, he felt that the Council should really be looking at Proposal 20 to address cow hunting first. He is all for two bulls for subsistence or one for subsistence and one for non-resident. He knows this is happening in other regions as well, they are dealing with the same situation with the Northwest Arctic caribou herd.

Sam Rohrer stated that he likes the staff's recommendation to support the proposal with modification or to go with the State's recommendation of two bulls by Federal registration permit. If we take one step at a time, reduce the harvest, get rid of the harvest of females and see what the population does. If it continues to go down, then next year we can start looking at other options.

Al Cratty agreed with both Jim and Sam in going with the staff's recommendation. Mr. Cratty asked Mr. Mack how many caribou he felt would be adequate per household for subsistence. Mr. Mack thought two would be good for the winter, nothing less than that. Mr. Cratty thanked him for his testimony.

Pat Holmes stated that he wished there was some sort of mechanism to close the winter season and maybe have a registration hunt instead. But he thought the Council should support Proposal 20 at this time, and if it gets worse then consider one bull and closing Federal public lands. He is in support of Proposal 20.

Pete Squartsoff asked Mr. Butler if the Board would consider opening the State season at a later date. Mr. Butler stated that at the last Alaska Board of Game meeting, they changed the harvest limit from one caribou to one bull. The State season is currently open for hunting from August 10<sup>th</sup> through September 30 during the years when bear seasons are open. During the years when bear season is closed, the caribou hunt is only open till October 10<sup>th</sup>. The Council could propose something similar during some years. Most non-local hunters take caribou the last week of August up till about September 15 for the antlers. Pete Squartsoff stated that his concern is not for the antlers, but for the meat for the local residents.

Pat Holmes stated that it makes sense to take caribou at a later date because the meat will be kept cooler. Mr. Butler stated that the Council could submit a proposal to the Board of Game. The deadline for proposals for the Kodiak area is December 10<sup>th</sup>.

The motion was to support Proposal 19. Question was called on the motion. All Council members voted against support of this proposal.

Pete Squartsoff made a motion to support Proposal 20. Motion was seconded by Pat Holmes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Proposal WP06-21** (Laura Greffenius). Proposal 21 was submitted by the Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council requesting that the opening date for the antlerless season for Sitka black-tailed deer in Unit 8 be changed from November 1 to October 1. This change would align Federal regulations with the opening date of the State regulations for deer in Unit 8 remainder. There should be no negative impact on



staff recommendation is to support the proposal.

Lem Butler, ADF&G, stated that the Department supports this proposal.

No written public comments.

Sam Rohrer made a motion to support the proposal. Motion was seconded by Pete Squartsoff. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Subsistence Use Amounts**

Pete Probasco (on-line) first apologized to the Council for not being able to attend the meeting due to a meeting he was required to attend in Anchorage. He stated that the purpose of this briefing was to introduce the draft subsistence use amounts protocol and to help the Council understand what the purpose of the protocol is, and to hopefully get guidance from the Council on how they would recommend proceeding with this protocol. The purpose of the protocol is to establish guidelines for how subsistence use amounts will be incorporated in the Federal Subsistence Program, primarily to make sure that we meet our objectives of the subsistence priority. The State already has something similar called Amounts Necessary for Subsistence which is already in regulation and utilized by the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Board of Game. The purpose of this protocol is to develop the process for considering what portion of harvestable surplus is necessary for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife in the Federal Subsistence Program. This will be a guiding factor in determining how we meet the subsistence use priority. It is important to understand that these subsistence use amounts are NOT caps and they are not limits. It is an amount used by managers or the management agency to make sure that that number is met prior to allowing other uses. The Federal program will initially recognize and use the State ANS findings in the development and implementation of subsistence harvest regulations; however, we are not tied to them. If we find, for any reason, that the numbers are not sufficient to meet the subsistence priority for Federally qualified users, then we can change them. And SUA finds may be developed and used if the Federal program determines that an ANS finding is not an accurate representation of subsistence harvests. When developing SUAs, the Federal program will consider ANS findings. They will also consider recommendations from the Regional Advisory Councils, and additional subsistence harvest information from household surveys, etc. A lot of our dollars are being used to do community surveys and household surveys to determine what are the subsistence uses as well as the subsistence harvests. In order for us to accurately portray what is being taken in our rural communities, this research has to continue. In summary, this protocol is the document that will provide guidance to both State and Federal managers for coordinating subsistence use management. Having this quantifiable amount will enable Federal managers to know whether or not they're providing enough opportunity for subsistence uses. Vince Tutiakoff asked what the deadline is for submitting a recommendation. Mr. Probasco stated that they would like the Council's comments today if possible. Some of the other councils have been supportive of the document, but the majority of the councils are questioning the protocol document. The Board will not be acting on this document at its May meeting, so there is time, however the earlier the comments are received, the better, so we'll have time to sharpen the document.

Al Cratty suggested working with Liz Williams from ADF&G. She trained local people to go into these communities to do the surveys, so there is not an outsider or agency person coming in trying to gather information from people in the villages. This has worked really well in Old Harbor. Pat Holmes stated that he worked with Lisa Scarborough and the village of Atka and it worked well there also.

Pat Petrivelli stated that part of the problem is that the State and Federal define subsistence differently between State and Federal uses, and the other problem was that the numbers are so outdated.

Vince Tutiakoff stated that he felt like this subsistence use amounts protocol was just another fancy word for limited entry for subsistence users. Mr. Probasco stated that some of the other councils felt the same way, so maybe the protocol document needs to be better outlined to reflect that. He reemphasized that the SUA or the ANS amounts are only a guide. Al Cratty stated that in talking to some people, some of their biggest fears are something happening similar to the Area M problem. Are we intercepting their fish on the commercial end, will they close us down? Mr. Probasco gave the following example of how this method would be used if he was the manager at i.e. Karluk Lake, he would look at the ANS amount or SUA amount to make sure he had that many fish over and above the escapement number before he allowed any fishing at all, and it would remain that way until he had both the escapement number and the ANS/SUA number. Then fishing would be allowed. Vince Tutiakoff stated that that sounds reasonable, but one issue that remains fresh in his mind was what happened at McLees Lake, where the fish escapement in the last three to five years has dropped dramatically due to user groups, too many permits were being issued for the size of the community. If this information was available at that time, maybe they would not have had that problem. Pete Squartsoff stated that in Port Lions people would not go along with the survey because they feel that if they give the numbers, the numbers might seem too high and they will be cut off. Mr. Probasco stated that Port Lions is not the only community that feels that way. He also stated that if communities are under reporting then they may be hurting themselves, so it really is important to have an accurate reflection of their total use of those resources. Paul Gundersen asked what happens when people take their subsistence fish out of their commercial catch, because there really is no record of the amount taken. Mr. Probasco stated when the household surveys are conducted those subsistence fish would be recorded, regardless of where they came from.

Chair Tutiakoff stated that he, Pat Holmes, and Al Cratty will put together some comments and get them to Mr. Probasco as soon as they could. Mr. Tutiakoff thanked Mr. Probasco for his time. Chair Tutiakoff asked Council members if they had any additional comments. Paul Gundersen thought there were too many variables in the protocol as to how it will be laid out. He thought it would be really troublesome on a river system where the higher up river you go, the smaller the numbers they will get. Mr. Tutiakoff stated that that is a good example and what he sees happening is a limited entry coming for the subsistence user. Pat Holmes stated that on one hand it could be a good tool to protect, but on the other hand it could come around and bite you on the back side. Al Cratty said he sees a problem with the guides and transporters because with a limit it could affect his future if things were to go wrong with the use of this protocol. Sam Rohrer thought that maybe this would be good for the subsistence user by setting a bottom line for what they need to subsist on, this would make the Council's decision process a little easier if we knew before hand what is needed and if there is enough to keep an open season, but like Mr. Cratty said, if the numbers get too deflated then the other users will be cut off, but as long as they kept the baseline numbers pretty reasonable and they are not overinflating the numbers, then it would be good for the subsistence users. Mr. Tutiakoff stated that the definition for subsistence has changed at least three times in the past 12 years, and he views this as another avenue to change it again. This could turn into a big issue four to five years down the road where subsistence users will be on a limited entry. Pat Holmes stated that one question he had was how would the development of this prevent limits? Jim Hamilton stated that he is a hunting guide, but he also wears other hats, he and his kids also live the subsistence lifestyle and so he is finding this hard to understand as well. Al Cratty stated that the Council should take this to the communities, corporations, and tribes, to let them know what is going on here so they have an opportunity to submit their input as well. Chair Tutiakoff stated that he is asking for comments no later than August 1<sup>st</sup>, so all the Council members will have a chance to review them.

### **FISHERIES RESOURCE MONITORING PROGRAM**

Steve Fried said he would give the Council a brief update on the status of the FRMP studies and an update on where FIS is with the Strategic Planning. There were no action items for the Council to take up at this time.



First, in terms of status of projects, there were 15 projects funded since 2000. Those studies are completed and there are reports on those studies on the web site of the Office of Subsistence Management. The last time a study was funded for the Kodiak/Aleutians area was 2004. No studies were funded for 2005 or 2006, but they are working through the call for proposals for 2007. He provided the Council with a table of six studies received and what the Technical Review Committee recommended for those studies. All but one of those six studies was forwarded by the TRC. He thought maybe in the next Strategic Planning Workshop that maybe the participants would be a little more specific on areas that need to be worked on.

Secondly, in terms of statewide efforts in strategic planning, there are two reports that are completed and are posted on the OSM website, and those are the Southcentral (Prince William Sound area) and the Southwest (Bristol Bay/Chignik) strategic plans. The office actually did use those reports for the 2007 call for proposals. So these reports are very important to the program. A workshop was held for the Kodiak/Aleutians and they will be having a second work group to finish the plan. At the second workshop the next step will be to do an information inventory to see what information is actually available, which will be good for the next three or four years. The second workshop is scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. A draft report from the last workshop has been sent to all of the participants.

Robert Baer, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, gave the Council an update on the status of the Afognak Lake sockeye salmon assessment project. He stated that OSM has funded this project for the last few years, and there were five major objectives put together to evaluate this lake system. 1) estimate the smolt production; 2) evaluate lake nutrients and chemistry with limnology; 3) measure usable spawning habitat; 4) determine the sockeye salmon production potential; and finally, 5) to compile all this into a final report. This 2006 season will be the final season. He gave a powerpoint slide presentation showing examples of things like out-migration timing; tables showing the history of data collected; the biomass of zooplankton; outlayers of water chemistry; a historical escapement graph. Since this is the final season for this study they will do the smolt production, and they will be monitoring the lake with limnology, and compile all the data into a final report. Pat Holmes asked if he could explain the change in the escapement goal. Mr. Baer stated that the escapement goal has dropped based on a spawner recruitment curve based on fish returning and what the system is capable of supporting, and based on how much forage base is available. He also stated that while doing the stream surveys in August, they also noted a lot of Dolly Varden. These fish prey on out-migrating fry, so this is an issue that needs to be addressed. Mr. Holmes asked Mr. Fried if they have done any studies of Dolly Varden in the Bristol Bay area. Mr. Fried stated that what they did was capture Dolly Varden, pump their bellies to figure out on an average how many smolts were in their stomachs so see how many smolts were being eaten. So the idea was to capture as many Dolly Varden as they could and keep them in pens until the smolt migration was over, hoping that those fish would survive. They actually hired a purse seiner to do this. They did determine that some of the char were eating smolt, but they also found that some of them were only eating insects and snails. It was difficult to evaluate the effectiveness of these efforts. There were bounties on char prior to statehood, but there were problems with that program, including people turning in salmon tails to collect the char bounty money. He also stated that the Federal Subsistence management program does not conduct predator control.

At this point (4:45p.m.) the Council recessed for the day.

## DAY TWO

### AGENCY REPORTS

#### U.S Fish and Wildlife Service – Office of Subsistence Management

**Rural Determination Update** – For the record, the Council expressed the fact that they will continually support Kodiak remaining rural. Chair Tutiakoff asked for a motion on support. Pete Squartsoff made a motion to support the continuing eligibility of Kodiak Island as a rural designation for subsistence priority for fish and wildlife on Federal public lands. Motion was seconded by Al Cratty. Motion passed unanimously.

Pat Holmes asked that the March 21 letter be attached to the motion of support.

Pete Squartsoff made a motion to support the designation of Adak Island from non-rural to rural for the purpose of the use of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands and waters. Motion was seconded by Paul Gundersen. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Draft Closure Review Policy** (Laura Greffenius).

Ms. Greffenius briefed the Council on the types of existing closures, many of which have been in place since the inception of the Federal Subsistence program in 1990. There are season closures which came from State regulations; closures because of conservation concerns; administrative closures for public safety; closures to non-Federally qualified users where there is a subsistence priority when there is a conservation concern. She stated that every three years these need to be looked so the review process will be presented at the fall meetings since at that time the wildlife proposals will be submitted. What is in the booklet is a more abbreviated version of the analyses, it gives the pertinent information of when the closure was initiated and why, biological background and resource information, harvest information. At the end, it will give a staff recommendation, and the Council would make a recommendation to support or amend, just like the regulatory proposals. Comments on this draft closure policy are due no later than April 1<sup>st</sup>. Pat Holmes made a motion to support the draft policy. Motion was seconded by Sam Rohrer. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Izembek National Wildlife Refuge**

Sandra Siekaniec, Refuge Manager for the Izembek NWR, went over the refuge report with the Council. Regarding brant, the new rules for this year were published, and it affects the Izembek area and the Yukon Delta area, they will have a special black brant and cackling goose hunt closure from when the birds start laying their eggs until the young birds are fledged. For the Izembek area, they are shortening the season by about 15 days. Instead of closing on August 31, it will close on August 16. For emperor geese, current populations are at about 56,000, they must be at an average of 60,000 for three consecutive years before a hunting season will be opened. Pat Holmes asked why it has to be a three-year average. Ms. Siekaniec stated that just because it shows a high number for one year that the population has stabilized, you have to have a consistent population to make sure you have a harvestable population. Al Cratty asked if eggs can still be taken in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta area. Ms. Siekaniec stated that it is totally closed. Pete Squartsoff asked if when the birds are counted, are they counted in the same areas at the same time or is it possible that these birds could be moving to a different area? Ms. Siekaniec stated that it is possible that they could winter in another area. With regard to Avian Influenza they have discovered that wild birds are getting the H5N1 virus from domestic birds. But there have been no reports of the virus being transferred from birds to humans. This virus is like a flu virus, so hygiene is critical. So if you are handling birds, you have to make sure you immediately wash your hands afterward. Also, if you are finding dead birds, please call us, but I would advise you to not touch them. Sea otters have been listed as a threatened species. If you find any sea otters carcasses, please call us so we can evaluate it to find out what the cause of death was. With regard to the King Cove road and the environmental impact assessment, it was determined that several of the easements we have are not in areas that people have

access to. So they will be looking at moving easements from one spot to another where they are more accessible to the public.

### **Alaska Department of Fish and Game**

Lem Butler stated that he did not have a formal report for the Council. He reminded the Council that they are welcome to submit a proposal through the Alaska Board of Game process to effect changes in Unit 9 to the State regulations. He offered to try to assist the Council with some ideas if to submit a proposal if they so wish. Paul Gundersen stated that he brought up this issue at the last meeting and said he was going to talk to people in the community, but he could not generate enough interest to get a proposal put together for that meeting. Now we're looking at another year again for submitting proposals. Al Cratty mentioned to Mr. Gundersen that he should try to get together with his tribal councils and city entities to get something drawn up as to what they'd like to do before it gets too bad. Sam Rohrer asked when the next cycle is for the Alaska Board of Game. Mr. Butler stated that the next Alaska Board of Game meeting for Southcentral will be March of 2007. Proposals are due by December 10, 2006. Another thing to keep in mind is that the Board put together a Commercial Services Board to address things like limiting guides to a certain number of clients. Pat Holmes stated that maybe the Council should consider assigning Mr. Gundersen to work with Lem Butler to see if they can develop some proposals that might help particularly in areas of the peninsula where there are more State lands than Federal public lands. Chair Tutiakoff stated that the Council did not want to go as far as eliminating non-Federally qualified users at this point, but he said that hopefully Mr. Gundersen will work with those communities to draft something to put before the Board before its next meeting.

Pete Squartsoff asked Mr. Butler if there has been any talk of transplanting deer out in that area. Mr. Butler stated that he thought that any efforts to transplant deer may be blocked by the refuge. If the deer naturally disburse in that area he was sure that they would do well in that area. Mr. Squartsoff felt that it would take pressure off caribou in that area for subsistence users.

Jim Hamilton asked Mr. Butler if there is a better way to get a handle on the cow to calf ratio as to what is causing the problem. Mr. Butler stated that for one thing the main limiting factor is funding at this time. The wildlife division is making an effort to increase license fees to they can generate some revenue to pursue projects along those line. Recently, the Office of Subsistence Management helped fund a caribou project to deploy 30 radio collars on adult female caribou, and they will be taking fecal and blood samples while they are deploying the collars to see if there is any evidence of disease that they are finding in the Northern Peninsula herd. If funding permits, they also want to do parturition surveys, just prior to pregnancy, to determine how many caribou are pregnant. So he will certainly look for any cooperative efforts with other agencies to see if they can get some of these projects started for the Southern Peninsula herd.

Vince Tutiakoff asked if there is a process to get a recommendation to fund some of these projects. Laura Greffenius stated that the 809 agreements, cooperative agreements, are what they are using for the collaring project. She was not sure on the exact date for the next call for proposals, but she will get back to the Council with that information.

Jim Hamilton asked if there was a way to get a proposal considered before the next meeting in 2007. Mr. Butler stated that as an area biologist he has a lot of control over seasons and bag limits and has the authority to make in-season adjustments on a limited level. Secondly, that they could submit an emergency petition to the Alaska Board of Game. Ms. Greffenius stated that on the Federal side there is what's called a special action. These are temporary and are written up just like a proposal, but not as lengthy. This would be a temporary action for a specific period of time.

problems, with funding coming from whatever source is available. Motion was seconded by Pete Squartsoff. Motion passed unanimously.

**Time and Place for the 2006 Fall meeting and the 2007 Winter meeting**

The Council confirmed the September 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> dates in Kodiak for its Fall meeting. The Council chose March 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> in King Cove for the 2007 Winter meeting with Cold Bay as the backup meeting location.

**Adjournment**

Al Cratty made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Pete Squartsoff. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:30a.m.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

Michelle Chivers, DFO  
USFWS Office of Subsistence Management

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Vince Tutiakoff, Chair, Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

These minutes will be formally considered by the Regional Advisory Council at its next meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

FWS/OSM/805cLtr

Mr. Vincent M. Tutiakoff Sr., Chair  
Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional  
Advisory Council  
Post Office Box 1971  
Adak, Alaska 99546

Dear Mr. Tutiakoff:

Enclosed with this letter is a report of the Federal Subsistence Board's actions at the January 10 through 13, 2006 meeting regarding proposed changes to subsistence fisheries regulations. The Board used a consent agenda on those proposals where the Council, the Interagency Staff Committee, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game were in agreement. The Board adopted the consent agenda at the conclusion of the meeting. Details of these actions and the Board's deliberations are contained in the meeting transcripts. Transcripts are online at the Office of Subsistence Management website, <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/index.htm>, and copies may be obtained by calling our toll free number, 1-800-478-1456.

The Federal Subsistence Board appreciates the Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council's active involvement in and diligence with the regulatory process. The ten Regional Advisory Councils continue to be the foundation of the Federal Subsistence Program, and the stewardship shown by the Regional Advisory Council chairs and their representatives at the Board meeting was noteworthy.

If you have any questions regarding the summary of the Board's actions, please contact your Regional Council Coordinator, Michelle Chivers, at 1-800-478-1456 or 1-907-786-3877.

Sincerely,

s/s MITCH DEMIENTIEFF

Mitch Demientieff, Chair  
Federal Subsistence Board

Enclosure

cc: K/ASRAC  
K/A Regional Team, OSM  
Division Chief, OSM  
FACA Coordinator, OSM

## FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD ACTION REPORT

### January 2006 Meeting

#### *Statewide Proposal*

#### **PROPOSAL FP06-01**

DESCRIPTION: Permit the sale of handicrafts made by rural Alaskans from the nonedible byproducts of subsistence-harvested fish or shellfish. Submitted by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

#### COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION/JUSTIFICATION:

Southeast Alaska: Support. The Council found that the proposal would benefit subsistence users by recognizing existing practices which use fish parts in regalia and in handicrafts; both of which are traditionally sold in Southeast Alaska. No changes in fish harvest are anticipated, there is no conservation concern associated with this proposal, and no effects on non-subsistence users are likely to take place.

Southcentral Alaska: Support. The Council supported the proposal to allow the sale of handicrafts made from nonedible byproducts of subsistence harvested fish or shellfish. The Council recognized that the proposal will provide for existing practices and will allow the same opportunities to subsistence users under Federal regulations which the State is proposing under State regulations.

Kodiak/Aleutians: Support. The Council stated that this is a traditional practice. This will allow full utilization of a subsistence resource.

Bristol Bay: Support. The Council stated that there were no conservation concerns for freshwater fish or salmon. The proposal would allow current customary and traditional practices to continue and these values would be passed onto generations after. And lastly, the Council didn't feel there would be wanton waste of freshwater fish and salmon, because residents wouldn't be exploiting the resources solely for commercial enterprise.

Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta: Support. The Council felt this proposal will accommodate current practices and help subsistence users. Local Yup'ik people utilize fish and shellfish nonedible byproducts for their handicrafts, such as wallets made of fish skins.

Western Interior Alaska: Support. The Council supports the proposal because traditionally people within the region made various items out of fish skins, in particular fish skin boots. Also, with the high price of fuel and supplies needed for subsistence harvest activities, the sale of fish handicrafts would help cover those costs. A recent cultural camp near Nulato taught youth how to make boots from fish skins.

Seward Peninsula: Support with modification to eliminate the words "the nonedible" and "(including, but not limited to, skin, shell, fins, and bones)." There are differences state wide about what is considered nonedible. The Council was not concerned that over-harvest would occur because handicrafts could only be made from the byproducts of subsistence-harvested fish.

Northwest Arctic: Support. The Council voted unanimously to support this proposal.



Eastern Interior Alaska: Support. The Council reviewed and agreed with the staff analysis.

North Slope: Support. The Council noted that there is some use of fish byproducts for handicrafts in the North Slope Region and that this is another way to help some of the people in the villages to make a living.

BOARD ACTION: Adopt, as recommended by nine of ten Regional Advisory Councils.

JUSTIFICATION: Adoption of the proposal acknowledges a practice described in ANILCA, provides the same opportunities to subsistence users under Federal regulations as the State is proposing under State regulations, and simplifies regulations. This Board action will not provide any additional opportunity for subsistence users (because current salvage regulations require that the harvest be primarily for consumption), and is not expected to result in an increase in fish harvests. This Board action is not expected to create conservation concerns.

### ***Alaska Peninsula Area***

#### **PROPOSAL FP06-06**

DESCRIPTION: Provide Federally qualified subsistence users additional fishing opportunities in some locations of the Alaska Peninsula Area by reducing the area closed to subsistence fishing when there are commercial openings nearby. Submitted by the Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

#### COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION/JUSTIFICATION:

Kodiak/Aleutians: Support with modification to add the word “sections.” The Council felt that this proposal would allow additional subsistence fishing opportunities in some Alaska Peninsula locations by reducing areas closed to subsistence fishing when commercial openings are nearby. The Council also felt that it makes sense to have parallel State and Federal regulations. This will help subsistence users.

Bristol Bay: Support with modification to include the language, “sections” that can be closed to subsistence fishing before and after a commercial opening. The Council stated the modified proposal would simplify the regulations, increase subsistence opportunities in some areas, and align with State regulations. Including the word “section” to the regulation change would allow Federal regulations to align with any State action to close subsistence fishing before and after a commercial opening for a specific section within a district.

BOARD ACTION: Adopt with modification, as recommended by the Kodiak/Aleutians and Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils.

JUSTIFICATION: This proposal was adopted with modification through the consent agenda.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
KODIAK/ALEUTIANS SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**CHARTER**

1. **Official Designation:** Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.
2. **Objectives and Scope of Activity:** The objective of the Council is to provide an administrative structure that enables residents of the region who have personal knowledge of local conditions and requirements to have a meaningful role in the management of fish and wildlife and of subsistence uses of those resources on public lands in the region.
3. **Period of Time Necessary for the Council's Activities and Termination Date:** The Council is expected to exist into the foreseeable future. Its continuation is, however, subject to rechartering every biennial anniversary of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of December 2, 1980. The Council will take no action unless the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act have been complied with.
4. **Official to Whom the Council Reports:** The Council reports to the Federal Subsistence Board Chair, who is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture.
5. **Support Services:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, will provide administrative support for the activities of the Council.
6. **Duties of the Council:** The Council possesses the authority to perform the following duties:
  - a. Initiate, review and evaluate proposals for regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands within the region.
  - b. Provide a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations by persons interested in any matter related to the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands within the region.
  - c. Encourage local and regional participation in the decision making process affecting the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands within the region for subsistence uses.
  - d. Prepare an annual report to the Secretary containing the following:
    - (1) An identification of current and anticipated subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations within the region.
    - (2) An evaluation of current and anticipated subsistence needs for fish and wildlife populations within the region.
    - (3) A recommended strategy for the management of fish and wildlife populations within the region to accommodate such subsistence uses and needs.
    - (4) Recommendations concerning policies, standards, guidelines and regulations to implement the strategy.
  - e. Make recommendations on determinations of customary and traditional use of subsistence resources.
  - f. Make recommendations on determinations of rural status.
  - g. Provide recommendations on the establishment and membership of Federal local advisory committees.

The Council will perform its duties in conformity with the Regional Council Operations Manual.

7. **Estimated Operating Costs:** Annual operating costs of the Council are estimated at \$100,000, which includes one person-year of staff support.
8. **Meetings:** The Council will meet at least twice each year at the call of the Council, Council Chair, Federal Subsistence Board Chair, or Designated Federal Officer with the advance approval of the Federal Subsistence Board Chair and the Designated Federal Officer, who will also approve the agenda.
9. **Membership:** The Council's membership is as follows:

Ten members who are knowledgeable and experienced in matters relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife and who are residents of the region represented by the Council. To ensure that a diversity of interests is represented, it is the goal that seven of the members (70 percent) represent subsistence interests within the region, with four members residing on Kodiak Island and three members residing on the Alaska Peninsula, the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands, and that three of the members (30 percent) represent commercial or sport interests within the region.

The Secretary of the Interior will appoint members based on the recommendations of the Federal Subsistence Board and with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture.

**Vacancy:** Whenever a vacancy occurs among Council members appointed under paragraph 9, the Secretary will appoint an individual in accordance with paragraph 9 to fill that vacancy for the remainder of the applicable term.

**Terms of Office:** Except as provided herein, each member of the Council will serve a 3-year term with the term ending on December 2 of the appropriate year unless a member of the Council resigns prior to the expiration of the 3-year term or he/she is removed for cause by the Secretary upon recommendation of the Federal Subsistence Board. Members will be notified of their appointment in writing. If resigning prior to the expiration of a term, members will provide a written resignation.

**Election of Officers:** Council members will elect a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and a Secretary for a 1-year term.

**Removal of Members:** If a Council member appointed under paragraph 9 has two consecutive unexcused absences of regularly scheduled meetings, the Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board may recommend that the Secretary of the Interior with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture remove that individual. A member may also be removed due to misconduct.

**Compensation:** Members will receive no compensation as members. Members will, however, be allowed travel expenses, including per diem, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in government service are allowed such expenses under 5 U.S.C. 5703.

10. **Ethics Responsibilities of Members:** No Council or subcommittee member will participate in any specific party matter including a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation with the Department in which the member has a direct financial interest.
11. **Designated Federal Officer or Employee:** Pursuant to Section 10(e) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Designated Federal Officer will be the Federal Regional Coordinator or such other

Federal employee as may be designated by the Assistant Regional Director - Subsistence, Region 7, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

12. **Authority:** The Council is reestablished by virtue of the authority set out in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3115 (1988)).

/sgd/ Gale A. Norton  
Secretary of the Interior

October 25, 2005  
Date Signed

October 27, 2005  
Date Filed